

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: To Be Assigned  
Applicant(s): Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and Yasushi  
WATANABE  
For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING A HOLLOW RACK  
SHAFT  
Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned  
Customer No. 24731  
Docket No.: 18733/00045  
Filed: Concurrently  
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned  
Examiner: To Be Assigned  
Prior Application:  
Serial No.: 09/803,560  
Confirmation No.: 7306  
Filed: March 9, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 3726  
Examiner: Marc Quemuel Jimenez

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

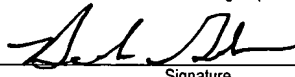
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EL 411784203 US  
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DERRICK GORDON

Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee



Signature

MARCH 11, 2004

Date of Signature

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following is a preliminary amendment that is being submitted concurrently  
with the filing of a Divisional Application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.